

TWENTIETH OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
KYIV, 5-6 DECEMBER 2013

Statement by Ambassador M. SAMIR KOUBAA
Permanent Representative of TUNISIA to OSCE

M. Chairman,

I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Ukrainian Authorities for leading the preparation and hosting of this important conference and for all efforts deployed during their OSCE Chairmanship

Tunisia has always been active as a Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation (MPC) since the initiation of OSCE dialogue in Lisbon in 1996. We would like to reaffirm today our strong commitment to pursue, extend and consolidate our cooperation with OSCE, in particular ODHIR, OSCE Parliamentarian Assembly and hopefully OSCE office for freedom of media.

While welcoming the progress that has been made and the contribution of OSCE, we would like to encourage the adoption of a new approach to OSCE/partners for cooperation based on the identification of specific doable and realistic projects and activities adapted to the special needs of the interested countries and upon their request of, as well as ensuring the effective follow-up of all related seminars and meetings and a better interaction among participating and partners States in this regard.

We are of the view that OSCE shall build on the recent strengthening of OSCE/Mediterranean Partners co-operation, especially after two successful Mediterranean Conferences in ROME and MONACO. Such undertaking would encourage interested partner countries to strengthen and expand their consultation and co-operation with our Organization. OSCE will thus demonstrate its capacity and willingness to outreach to its partners and contribute to the consolidation of democracy, peace, protection of fundamental human rights, development and prosperity in the Euro-Mediterranean region .

Indeed, We need to see that the commitments expressed at the various international and bilateral occasions will be honored as soon as possible, "not only through the amount of money that will be secured or granted to our new democracy, but through the solidarity that it will show at all levels".

Tunisia is resolved to rely on its own forces to address the various challenges it is facing during the democratic transition process. We are, however, convinced that effective support from the international community, including OSCE, is instrumental in order to bring development and democratic process to a successful end.

In this regard, OSCE is playing an important role and I would like to express our sincere thanks to Secretary General Ambassador Lamberto Zannier and to his dedicated staff.

I'm also pleased to thank OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for the energetic and effective support it has shown to my country. We are looking forward to its renewed support by ensuring the observation of the upcoming legislative and presidential elections in Tunisia.

I would like also to express our deep appreciation for ODHIR contribution through the implementation of a series of projects and the organization of many activities related to the consolidation of democratic institutions, reform of electoral legislation, promotion of the role of civil society and participation of women in political life Tunisia, responding to the priorities and concerns as spelled out by the Tunisian authorities and in conformity with Vilnius Ministerial Council decision related to OSCE cooperation with Partners. A similar decision is regrettably missing for the second year in a row.

M. Chairman

We are confident that our OSCE partners will continue to strengthen the partnership process and convinced that the success of the Tunisian experience, which we believe in and are working on relentlessly, will also be shared by our partners.